

Joint City-County Planning Task Force

Meeting Notes

July 26, 2013

The meeting started with a welcome from Greg Burris, City Manager, followed by an explanation for the format of the meetings. The meetings will be held to the Missouri Sunshine Law standards. They will be open to the public with recorded audio and written summary notes for review. They are not considered as public hearings and there will be no testimony from the audience unless invited by the Task Force.

The welcome from Tim Smith, County Administrator, was followed by self-introductions of the Task Force members. Mr. Smith concurred with Mr. Burris regarding the structure of the meetings and availability of meeting documentation.

Task Force members present at today's meeting:

Greg Burris, Springfield City Manager

Tim Smith, Greene County Administrator

Fred Marty, Springfield Deputy City Manager

Collin Quigley, Springfield Asst. City Manager

Cindy Stein, Greene County Auditor

Mary Mannix-Decker, City of Springfield Financial Director

Martha Mundt, Greene County Budget Director

Dan Patterson, Greene County Prosecutor

Jerry Moyer, Greene County Courts Administrator

Maj. Jim McCullough, City of Springfield Police Department

Mr. Smith explained the close working relationship between the City and the County. This included the past successes of working together on several joint projects and the anticipated outcome of this Task Force. A review of the Task Force charge was read by Mr. Smith. Mr. Burris stressed the importance of flexibility to address the charge, mentioning the letter proposing the creation of the task force from Springfield Mayor, Robert L. Stephens.

Mr. Burris suggested prioritizing the list of topics for the upcoming meetings and determining the next available meeting date. Mr. Marty asked if the current list was prioritized in a particular order. Mr. Smith said, no; however while all the topics were important, the County's financial crisis should be considered as the most urgent. Mr. Burris stated that while the meetings are open and transparent and the Task Force would welcome public input, he expressed concern regarding too many topics being assigned to the Task Force and proposed that additional topics be solicited from citizens and the County Commission and City Council review the submitted topics and decide whether they want to serve as "sponsors" for any additional topics beyond those already on the Task Force's list. Task Force members agreed to this and stated that the elected officials would need to confirm that the topics fit the Charge of the Task Force. Ms. Mannix-Decker suggested that a timeframe be established for additional topics. The Task Force agreed that a three week timeframe would be sufficient to seek additional topics from the public. Mr. Burris also stated that the City will establish a website that will provide information regarding how the public can submit additional topic suggestions. Mr. Smith stated that hard copies of Task Force's final report will be made available at the County Commission office. Mr. Smith asked what would happen after the meetings were completed. Mr. Burris suggested that the elected officials could hold a public hearing to present the Task Force recommendations. Mr. Smith recommended that some

recommendations could be released prior to the Task Force's final report, and the Task Force members agreed.

Discussion turned to the priority of the topics. Mr. Smith stressed that the County's critical financial situation must be addressed first. The County's level of revenue is critically low and if something is not done quickly could result in a reduction of County services. The County is meeting on Wednesday, July 31, to discuss specific revenue proposals.

Mr. Burris stated that the City's priority is for the Police and Fire Pension sales tax to be renewed. This is proposed for the April 2014 ballot. If it does not pass, the City will also be in a dire situation. Mr. Smith expressed his understanding of the importance of passing this sales tax, but stated that the County could not wait, and he asked that the Council be made known of the County's financial situation. Mr. Burris agreed to communicate this message to City Council.

After discussion, the Task Force tentatively scheduled Wednesday, August 7th, for the second meeting. Support staff will confirm the date/time and location of the next meeting. The City and County agreed to alternate hosting of these meetings, so the August 7th meeting will be hosted by the City.

Priorities for the next meeting were discussed among the Task Force members, and it was agreed that the first topic will be the County's financial crisis. The second topic will be the criminal justice system, including the Law Enforcement Sales Tax 1 (LEST 1), the original agreement, the history behind the sales tax, and where it is today - jail overcrowding, capital needs, and courtroom space. For the third topic, Ms. Mannix-Decker and Ms. Mundt will present information about joint City-County departments that share funding. These departments include the Health Department, 911, Parks, and Emergency Management. If time allows, the third topic could be started at the next meeting.

In closing, Mr. Burris again expressed his understanding of the County's financial urgency, but asked that the Police and Fire Pension Sales Tax renewal be kept in mind. Mr. Smith stated that in the past this type of discussion between the City and County would not have been possible, and that it was very important and greatly appreciated that this discussion could happen now. Mr. Patterson requested that a checklist or criteria be developed to vet incoming ideas. Mr. Burris asked that the Task Force share their ideas for vetting criteria at the next meeting, and that he appreciated everyone's willingness to serve.